



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



January 28, 2003

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

I will be attending the mini regional MIC/HIC workshop in Portland, Oregon, January 27-29, 2003. The purpose of the workshop is to focus on IFPS issues and Hydrology in the Pacific Northwest. The workshop will provide a more focused opportunity for the Northwest RFC to interact with WFOs within its service area. Extensive IFPS discussions will be a significant part of the workshop as well. The next mini workshop will be held February 19-20, 2003, in Sacramento, with a third meeting scheduled for March in Salt Lake.

I will also be attending a climate services meeting January 30-31, 2003, in Baton Rouge, LA.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: The following statement of the week is a High Wind Watch from the midnight team of Joe Villani, Matt Jackson, and Dave Williamson from Great Falls. This product was succinctly written and had a lead time of 30 hours. The watch was later upgraded to a warning for winds gusting to 75mph. The warning verified with a 15 hour lead time and gusts ranging from 53 to 71 mph. Great job Great Falls!

URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
445 AM MST SAT JAN 25 2003

MTZ009-010-044-046-048-049-261800
EASTERN GLACIER-EASTERN PONDERA-EASTERN TETON-NORTHERN ROCKY
MOUNTAIN FRONT-SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT-TOOLE-
445 AM MST SAT JAN 25 2003

...HIGH WIND WATCH SUNDAY AND SUNDAY NIGHT FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FRONT AND ADJACENT PLAINS...

STRONG WEST WINDS ARE POSSIBLE SUNDAY AND SUNDAY NIGHT...AS A LOW
PRESSURE SYSTEM STRENGTHENS OVER ALBERTA. SUSTAINED WINDS OF 30
TO 45 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 65 MPH MAY DEVELOP WITH THIS SYSTEM. THE
STRONG WINDS WILL ALSO CAUSE AREAS OF BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW

THAT WILL REDUCE VISIBILITY.

RECENT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:

2003 Seattle Boat Show

WFO Seattle represented the National Weather Service in one of the nation's largest marine exhibitions during the 2003 Seattle Boat Show, held January 17-26. Nearly 69,000 people attended the show.

The National Weather Service booth at the 2003 Seattle Boat Show was staffed by several NWS retirees, in addition to Lee Chesneau, of MPC/OPC. Lee also gave a marine weather seminar attended by more than 150 people.



NWS Seattle Warning Coordination Meteorologist Ted Buehner (r) discusses marine forecast products and services with attendees at the 2003 Seattle Boat Show.



Customers watched the Washington Weather Hazards video and viewed the exhibit posters and brochures describing NWS onshore, near shore, and offshore products at the 2003 Seattle Boat Show.

10th Annual Operation Sierra Storm 2003

The 10th Annual Operation Sierra Storm, held in the Lake Tahoe area January 7-8, was a resounding success. Approximately 40 TV meteorologists from across the country attended. There were 7 presentations covering topics including El Nino, global climate change, avalanches, and storm chasing. Many TV meteorologists conducted live shots or tape-delay interviews on the mountain. Various NOAA staff and speakers participated in interviews. Climate Prediction Center's Ed O'Lenic was featured in many interviews and was included in a front page story in the Reno Gazette-Journal on January 8.



Randy Rauch, WTSP-TV in Tampa, Florida, gets ready to tell his hometown viewers about the winter weather in the Sierra's.



WFO Reno Meteorologist-in-Charge Jane Hollingsworth introduces Ed O'Lenic from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center during Operation Sierra Storm held in Squaw Valley, CA.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Hydrology Training Documentation: Western Region HCSD is working with OCWWS/HSD and the other regions to provide documentation of the hydrology training requests for FY04. This documentation includes a description of the requirements for the training and a statement of impacts on NWS performance if the training is not provided. The Field Requirements Group is requiring documentation for all requested existing and proposed training for FY04. Consideration is currently being given to requesting two new training courses - a hydrologic science course and a course in heavy precipitation/flash flooding. We will let you know the status of the hydrology training requests as the process develops.

CPC Spring El Nino Briefings Provided to WR Offices: CPC will be providing a spring briefing for all Western Region offices via teleconference and the internet on the current El Nino situation. Basically, the same briefing will be offered the following three times:

February 5, 2003 at 12:30pm MST/11:30am PST
 March 5, 2003 at 9:00am MST/8:00am PST
 March 12, 2003 at 12:30pm MST/11:30am PST

This briefing has been set up for the Climate Services Focal Points, but others who are interested are certainly welcome. It is important that your office RSVP to Andrea Bair for one of these briefings.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Eastern North Pacific Regional Wave Model: Kirby Cook, WRH SSD, has set up the dissemination (via LDAD/WR WAN) and display (D2D) of the Eastern North Pacific Regional Wave model (ENP). The ENP is a $1/4 \times 1/4$ degree latitude model that is run 4x/day (00z, 06z, 12z, 18z) at NCEP. The runs are available from NCEP approximately 5.5 hours after cycle time on a $1/4 \times 1/4$ degree grid, which means that they will be available to your D2D sometime just under 6 hours after cycle time (allowing for time to download and decode the forecast run from the NCEP server). Each run consists of 3 hourly output extending out to 126 hours (43 frames). By default only 32 frames (out to the 93 hour forecast) are displayable on D2D, but the entire run should be available for use in the GFE. Fields being sent include surface wind (speed and direction), significant wave height, secondary wave mean period, and primary wave mean period. Set up instructions have been sent to the coastal offices via E-mail.

GFE/IFPS Workshop: OCWWS and WR co-sponsored a GFE/IFPS workshop Jan 14-16, 2003 at the Forecast Systems Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. The workshop focused on IFPS issues in complex terrain/coastal areas with an emphasis toward the practical sharing of information. The workshop also included training on the new GFE text formatters. Participants included one IFPS Focal Point from each WR forecast office and River Forecast Center, the Juneau and Anchorage WFOs, three people from Pacific Region and one participant from the Denver, Grand Junction, Riverton, and Albuquerque offices. Participant comments indicated much was gained not only from the training, but also from the interchange on IFPS collaboration and methodology.

Reminder - UAP Applications Due by February 21, 2003: The NWS University Assignment Program (UAP) offers opportunities for both full-time and part-time training assignments in job or career-related study at an accredited educational facility. It enables employees to keep abreast of advances in science and technology, and other innovations within their occupational fields. The program also provides an opportunity for all employees to learn new skills, as well as to develop and improve abilities they require in current or future positions. The UAP should be used only when the needed set of skills or knowledge requires a comprehensive long-term study program rather than a series of unconnected, short-term courses.

All application materials must be received at the Regional Office (SSD) by February 21, 2003. Ask your MIC or SOO for additional information.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

AWIPS Status: Fourteen of the 24 Western Region WFOs and Western Region Headquarters have completed their AWIPS archive server (AX) installations. AWIPS Pre-processors (PXs) are scheduled for shipping to WFOs beginning February 26. AWIPS Operational Build 1 (OB1) will follow shortly thereafter. Installation of the PXs is

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a pre-requisite for the OB1 installation.

FY03 IT Security Awareness Training Course: After discussions with the NWS Information Technology Security Officer and NOAA IT Security Program Staff, it appears that NOAA is requiring everyone to complete the new FY03 IT security awareness training course. Personnel who completed the FY02 course will need to complete the FY03 course as well. Sorry for the confusion and extra work; we'll do everything we can to prevent this sort of thing from happening again. Thanks for your great work.

If you have not already, please complete the NOAA mandatory FY03 IT security awareness training course. <http://noaa.learnsecuritywith.us>